

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14, 17, 39, 40, and 44 are amended and new claims 49-52 are added. No new matter is introduced. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 8-11. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 49-52 are allowable because claim 49 is essentially claim 8 rewritten in independent form and claims 50-52 depend from claim 49. Applicants request reconsideration of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Withdrawals Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b)

The Examiner withdrew claims 2, 3, 12, 19-20, 24, 27, 41, 42, and 45, among other claims, as being drawn to a non-elected species. However, Applicants elected Species IV, directed to Figures 14-16, and claims 1-20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 33, 37-42, 44-46, and 48 read on the elected species. These claims include claims 2, 3, 12, 19-20, 24, 27, 41, 42, and 45, which the Examiner has withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reinstate these claims for prosecution at this time.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 14 recite, “a projection, adapted to receive the heating element and be inserted in a well in the fluid line.” In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,341, to Wu, fails to disclose a projection adapted to receive a heating element. The structure in Wu that the Examiner analogizes to the projection of the present application is actually a PCT heat generator. (Column 2, line 63). However, the PCT heat generator 4 of Wu is not a projection, nor is it received in a projection. As discussed in U.S. Publication No. 2006/0144376 A1, paragraphs [0107] and [0108], the projection 9 in the present application receives the heating element 3, 7, which can be a PCT element, and is designed to be directly inserted into a well of a fluid line with the heating element 3, 7. As further discussed in paragraph [0112], the projection 9 is part of a sub-module that includes the heating element 3 and can be mounted without great effort. In contrast, since Wu only discloses the PCT heat generator 4 without being received in a projection, a user is required to directly handle the PCT heat generator 4 to mount it in trough 21

of Wu. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14, and all claims that are dependent from claims 1 and 14, respectively, are allowable over Wu.

Furthermore, amended claims 17 and 39 recite that the projection is adapted to receive the heating element and be inserted in the well. Similarly, claim 40 recites, "a well that receives the projection of the heating device holding the heating element". Furthermore, claim 44 recites, "inserting a heating element arranged on a projection of a heating device in a well." In contrast, Wu fails to disclose a projection adapted to receive a heating element, as discussed above, and Raghavan et al. do not satisfy this deficiency in Wu. Accordingly, claims 17, 39, 40, and 44 are allowable over Wu in view of Raghavan et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 4-7, 13-18, 22, 25, 33, 37, 38, 40, 44, 47, and 48 as being obvious over Wu in view of Raghavan et al. and/or U.S. Patent No. 4,922,882, to Töpfer. In the interest of brevity, arguments in support of these dependent claims on their own merit are not made here because these claims are allowable for depending from corresponding independent claims 1, 14, 17, 39, 40, and 44, which are allowable as discussed above. Applicants reserve the right to make such arguments at a later time, as Applicants deem necessary.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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